

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 4 and 8 are currently being amended.

Claims 10-13 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 4, 5 and 8-13 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 4, 5 and 7-9. By way of this amendment and reply, “objected to” claim 4 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims, and thus claim 4 and claim 5 that depend from claim 4 are now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, “objected to” claim 8 has been amended to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims, and thus claim 8 and claim 9 that depend from claim 8 are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,650,662 to Arnaud et al. in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,411,808 to Adachi et al.; and claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnaud et al. in view of Adachi et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,125,117 to Martin et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 3 and 6, these rejections are now moot.

New Claims:

New claims 10-13 have been added, whereby these new claims are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. For example, the invention according to new independent claims 10, 11 and 13 is directed to the case where termination of a DTMF signal is notified to an opposite-side communication apparatus that sent the DTMF signal, and thereby a silence signal or a noise signal (see independent claims 11 and 13, for example) is sent to a voice terminal apparatus, which is housed in and connected to the opposite-side communication apparatus, for a predetermined duration, at a time when the opposite-side communication apparatus receives the notification.

By way of the present invention according to new claims 10-13, precise transmittance of a DTMF signal can be performed at a side of a voice terminal apparatus when receiving a DTMF signal continuously.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect

information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 945-6162

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Phillip J. Articola

Pavan K. Agarwal

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 40,888

Phillip J. Articola

Registration No. 38,819